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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

ARGENTINA

Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato GALTIERI

June 1981

(U) 1973

(U) NAME: Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri (gahl-tee-EHR-ee), Army.

(U) POSITION: Commander in Chief of the Argentine Army and a member of the ruling Military Junta, since 1 January 1980. General Galtieri succeeded Lieutenant General Roberto Viola.

(S/NOFORN) SIGNIFICANCE: With the exception of President Roberto Viola, General Galtieri is one of the most powerful personalites in Argentina. Galtieri's star began it rapid ascendency in the aborted mini rebellion staged by then III Corps Commander (Major General) Luciano Menendez in September 1979. Galtieri's appointment to the leadership of the Army in January 1980, reaffirmed the increasingly powerful role of the politico/military moderates, and an Infantry Branch victory in its internecine rivalry with the Cavalry. Although an Engineer, Galtieri has solid support from the Infantry. He has consistently enjoyed the full backing of former President Rafael Videla, and of his successor, General (Ret) Viola, former Commander in Chief of the Army. Galtieri's political views in the past generally are considered to have mirrored those of the then Videla/Viola team. Today, as Commander in Chief of the Army, his hand has been strengthened during the course of political events, and he is now one of the key people in the decisionmaking process. General Galtieri has received extensive training in the United States.

(C/NOFORN) POLITICS: General Galtieri supports and is a part of the ruling government. His anti-Peronist stance led to his forced resignation in 1954 by the government of then President Juan Peron, but he was reinstated in September 1955. In the mid-seventies, it is alleged that he had made contact with Peronist leaders. General Galtieri was known to be pro-United States, no doubt having been influenced by his student days at the US Army School of the Americas, Fort Gulick, Canal Zone (1949) and the US Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia (1960-1961). As Chief of the Department of Logistics and Finance, Army General Staff (1973-1974), Galtieri had an important role in the acquisition of United States arms and equipment. US personnel responsible for the military assistance (sales and grants) program found him cooperative and helpful. His attitude toward the Carter administration's human rights policy is not known, but his own record in this area as a military commander is positive.

(C/NOFORN) PERSONAL DATA: Galtieri was born on 15 July 1926 at Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is of medium build (about 6'3" or 1.9 m; 190 lbs or 86 kg), with blue eyes, and brown hair. He has a tall commanding presence, but

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sometimes appears to stoop. He suffered a mild heart attack in July 1973 from which he has apparently recovered. Galtieri is a practicing Roman Catholic. He has a poor command of the English language. A friendly and open person, he speaks slowly and deliberately. He is married to the former Lucia Noemi Gentili. She is a practicing Roman Catholic. They have three (3) children: Adriana Sara (f), born about 1953; Diana (f), born about 1954; Carlos (m) born about 1958.

(U) CAREER:

1943-1945	- Cadet, National Military Academy, Buenos Aires, February 1943-December 1945. Commissioned Third Lieutenant, 13 December 1945.
1945	- Assigned to Fifth Engineer Battalion.
?	- Student, Engineer School, Campo de Mayo, Buenos Aires.
1947	- Promoted to Second Lieutenant, 31 December.
?	- Instructor, Sargento Cabral Noncommissioned Officers School, Campo de Mayo, Buenos Aires.
1949	- Student, Basic Engineer Course, US Army School of the Americas, Fort Gulick, Canal Zone, June-October. Promoted to First Lieutenant, 31 December.
?	- Assigned to 4th Engineer Battalion.
1952	- Promoted to Captain, 31 December.
1952-1953	- Student, Superior War School, Buenos Aires.
1954-1955	- Break in service (forced to leave service because of anti-Peronist activities); returned to service after ouster of Peron, September 1955).
1957	- Student, Superior War School, Buenos Aires (resumed studies that had begun in 1952-1953). Promoted to Major, 3 December.
?	- Staff Officer, Army General Staff.
1960-1961	- Student (Advanced Engineer Course 5A-C4), US Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, August 1960-January 1961.
1961-1962	- Assigned to Engineer Command Inspectorate.

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1963-1964 - Instructor, Superior War School, Buenos Aires.

1965-1967 - Deputy Director, Engineer School, Campo de Mayo, Buenos Aires. Rank as of May 1965: Lieutenant Colonel.

1968 - Student, Superior Strategy (Colonels) Course, Superior War School, Buenos Aires.

1969-1970 - Commander, 121st Engineer Construction Battalion.

1971-1972 - Deputy Chief, Engineer Command.

1972 - Promoted to Brigadier General, 31 December.

1973 - Commander, "Comodoro Rivadavia" 9th Infantry Brigade, January-June.

1973-1974 - Chief, Department IV (Logistics and Finance), Army General Staff, June 1973-January 1974.

1974 - Commander, 7th Infantry Brigade, Buenos Aires, as of January.

1975 - Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, II Army Corps, Rosario, May-September 1975 (apparently also served as acting Commander).

1975 - Chief, Department III (Operations), Army General Staff, September-December.

1975-1976 - Deputy Chief, Army General Staff, December 1975-October 1976.

1976-1979 - Commander, II Army Corps, Rosario, 12 October 1976-26 January 1979. Promoted to Major General, 1 January 1977. Official visit to Brazil, July 1977.

1979-1980 - Commander, I Army Corps, Palermo, from 1 February 1979-1 January 1980.

1980-Present - Commander in Chief of the Argentine Army, and concurrently, a member of the three man Military Junta, from 1 January 1980. Promoted to Lieutenant General, 1 January 1980.

PREPARED BY: Linda Renteria, DIA/DB-3E1

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